Arts and Sciences Council of Chairs

Thursday, September 25, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am

245 Patterson Office Tower

Bachelor of General Studies - Faculty Advisory Committee

The College would like to start their own general studies degree and the Dean has requested that we move forward to form a faculty advisory committee. Those who may be interested in developing this program and helping it through the governance, please contact Ruth Beattie.

Staff Position Transfers

The College has made an incredible effort to create a professional staff. To continue in that pattern, the Dean would like to create retention type packages for staff which are offered another position. The retention would ask the staff person to agree not to seek employment elsewhere for at least one year. The Chairs agreed that this was a thoughtful way to keep valued staff in the College.

Blackboard Update

The University has been reviewing other Learning Management Systems for the past year. IT will soon be announced that we are moving to a system called Canvas. This LMS will be run by canvas, not UKIT. It will take a while to transition. The college has requested that faculty with the most difficult problems in Blackboard be transferred to Canvas first. Once the transition starts to happen, we will be sure to hold several training and information sessions.

Graduate Education Benchmark Report

The group discussed the Graduate Education Benchmark Report. The College plans to use this document as a starting point on discussions to bring stipends up to the benchmark averages and taking a strategic look at graduate education for the next 2-5-10-20 years. If departments have specific questions about their areas, please check in with Kirsten and Abbie.

Student Success in Undergraduate Courses

The Dean received a report from the Provost office containing a list of the classes with DEW rates greater than 25%. We will send each department a copy of their information and ask that they tell us how they will strategically plan to decrease the incidence of DEW in these classes. Please look at the trends over time. We do ask departments to avoid stating national averages and making a case of unprepared students. The Provost Office is looking for thoughtful solutions. There will be a quick turnaround time on these.